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Introduction

Identifying early steps in the cancerous transformation of primary mammary epithelial cells (PMECs) may help guide treatment and prevention strategies. Female BRCA1 carriers are highly predisposed to developing breast cancer, and their normal breast epithelium has a high prevalence of pre-malignant lesions[1-3]. On the molecular level early genetic changes in histologically normal breast epithelium can precede morphological changes in the mammary gland in both, spontaneous, as well as in BRCA1 related breast cancers[2]. However, it is unclear which of these differentially expressed proteins are the key players in initiating or maintaining the malignant phenotype and how the genetic mutations lead to these changes. It is our hypothesis that the morphologically normal breast epithelium of BRCA1 carriers harbors tumor progenitor cells at various stages of malignant transformation, and that these cells have undergone some but not all of the genetic and gene expression changes necessary for malignant transformation. We proposed to test this hypothesis in a mouse model. We used an ex vivo colony formation approach to analyze single mammary epithelial cells from the normal breast epithelium of BRCA1-mutant mice (3) with the goals of 1. identifying tumor progenitor cells and 2. defining a map of the transformation of these breast epithelial cells. We chose the BRCA1 null mice as the closest model for human BRCA1 carriers. This ex vivo model may resemble in vivo conditions closely enough to allow for the experimental recapitulation of breast cancer formation.

Body

The initiation of breast cancer in humans is a complex process that is still largely unclear. Gene expression profile studies suggest that many, if not all, gene expression changes are already present at the level of atypical ductal hyperplasia, a pre-cancerous condition. Therefore, it was our aim to analyze the processes that proceed the formation of these pre-neoplastic changes as a thorough understanding of the initiation of breast cancer is pivotal for the development of chemoprevention and cancer treatment strategies. We have developed an in vitro system for the differentiation of primary mammary epithelial cells[4]. This system allows us to detect differences between the differentiation of normal versus mammary epithelial cells derived from oncogene carrying mice. We wanted to test whether these early differences in differentiation pattern were representative of early steps of carcinogenesis, and whether it allowed us to analyze the early steps of tumor formation.

For this purpose transgenic and conditional knock-out mice (mutant p53 or mutant BRCA1 mice and MMTV-Cre transgenic mice), have been bred, and their primary mammary epithelial cells analyzed before they develop tumors as well as in the tumors that do develop. The mice were bred, then genotyped. In general male newborns have been euthanized as this is a breast cancer study and the incidence of breast cancer in males is low. Only males that were kept for breeding purposes were raised. The females that are transgene positive, have been kept as virgins.

At various stages of mammary gland development they have been sacrificed and their mammary glands examined histologically and in the newly developed colony formation assay. These studies have been performed in the animals BEFORE they develop tumors to assess the genetic changes in a mammary epithelium "at risk" that has not yet undergone transformation. When females developed breast tumors, they were observed twice a week, and the observation has been documented in an Experimental Illness Form. Once the tumor reached a diameter of greater than 0.5 cm or if the tumor growth interferes with the mobility or the wellbeing of the mouse, the tumor-bearing mouse was sacrificed. In addition, if a tumor showed ulceration, the tumor-bearing mouse was sacrificed.

EXPERIMENT			
FLOX+/+ J+ p53+/-	18 mice		
2055	FEMALE	(1656) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (2033) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p-/-	4/28/2007
2056	FEMALE	(1656) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (2033) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p-/-	4/28/2007
2057	FEMALE	(1656) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (2033) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p-/-	4/28/2007
2059	FEMALE	(1665) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (2033) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p-/-	4/28/2007
2060	FEMALE	(1665) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (2033) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p-/-	4/28/2007
2061	FEMALE	(1656) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (2033) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p-/-	4/28/2007
2062	FEMALE	(1656) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (2033) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p-/-	4/28/2007
2032 2037	FEMALE FEMALE	(1804)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1860)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- (1861)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1804)J-Cre FLOX+/+ p+/-	2/14/2007 2/14/2007
2038	FEMALE	(1861)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1804)J-Cre FLOX+/+ p+/-	2/14/2007
2101	FEMALE	(1656) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X(2066) J-Cre/FLOX+/+p+/-	8/26/2007
2102	FEMALE	(1656) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X(2066) J-Cre/FLOX+/+p+/-	8/26/2007
2107	FEMALE	(1655) J-Cre FLOX+/+ X (2063) J-Cre/FLOX+/+p+/-	8/26/2007
1809	FEMALE	(1517)J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1419)J-Cre/FLOX+/+	7/26/2006
1808	FEMALE	(1517)J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1419)J-Cre/FLOX+/+	7/26/2006
1858	FEMALE	(1819)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+	9/27/2006
2031	FEMALE	(1804)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1860)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/-	2/14/2007
2025	FEMALE	(1516)J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1803)J-Cre/FLOX+/-p+/-	2/8/2007
FLOX+/+ J+	18 mice		
1833	FEMALE	(1417/1244) J-Cre/FLOX+/- X (1409) J-Cre/FLOX+/+	8/7/2006
1689	FEMALE	(1418) J-Cre/FLOX+/- X (1409) J-Cre/FLOX+/+	7/31/2006
1692	FEMALE	(1418) J-Cre/FLOX+/- X (1409) J-Cre/FLOX+/+	7/31/2006
1493/1434	FEMALE		1/27/2006/
1851	FEMALE	J-Cre/FLOX+/+ (1493/1434) x (1659) FLOX+/+	9/15/2006
1848	FEMALE	J-Cre/FLOX+/+ (1493/1434) x (1659) FLOX+/+	9/15/2006
1849	FEMALE	J-Cre/FLOX+/+ (1493/1434) x (1659) FLOX+/+	9/15/2006
1868	FEMALE	(1492) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (1659) FLOX+/+	9/27/2006
1870	FEMALE	(1492) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (1659) FLOX+/+	9/27/2006
1871	FEMALE	(1492) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (1659) FLOX+/+	9/27/2006
1869	FEMALE	(1492) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (1659) FLOX+/+	9/27/2006
1872	FEMALE	(1492) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (1659) FLOX+/+	9/27/2006
1656	FEMALE	(1493) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (1409) J-Cre/FLOX+/+	7/6/2006
1862	FEMALE	(1492) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (1659) FLOX+/+	9/27/2006
1655	FEMALE	(1493)J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (1409) J-Cre/FLOX+/+	7/6/2006
1657	FEMALE	(1493) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (1409) J-Cre/FLOX+/+	7/6/2006
1665	FEMALE	(1492) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (1409) J-Cre/FLOX+/+	7/6/2006
1493/1434	FEMALE	J-Cre/FLOX+/- X J-Cre/FLOX+/-	3/20/2006
FLOX+/+ J+ p53wt	14 mice		
2108	FEMALE	(1655) J-Cre FLOX+/+ X (2063) J-Cre/FLOX+/+p+/-	8/26/2007
2014	FEMALE	(1809)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+	10/25/2006
2015	FEMALE	(1809)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+	10/25/2006
2004	FEMALE	(1808) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+	10/23/2006
2005	FEMALE	(1808) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+	10/23/2006
2082	FEMALE		7/26/2007
1857	FEMALE	(1819)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+	9/27/2006
1854	FEMALE	(1819)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+	9/27/2006
1700	FEMALE	(1517)J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1419)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/-	7/26/2006

1697 1885 1882 1883 1898	FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE	(1517)J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1419)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- (1698) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+ (1698) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+ (1698) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+ (1679) FLOX+/+ X (1804) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- (1679) FLOX+/+ X (1804) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/-	7/26/2006 10/6/2006 10/6/2006 10/6/2006 10/25/2006 10/25/2006
CONTROLS NO FLOX 1852 1875 1884	3 mice FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE	J-Cre/FLOX+/+ (1493/1434) x (1659) FLOX+/+ (1244/1417) FLOX+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+ (1698) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+	9/15/2006 9/27/2006 10/6/2006
FLOX+/- J+ p53+/- 2024 1691 2022 2044 1821 1824 1822	FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE	(1516)J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1803)J-Cre/FLOX+/-p+/- (1418) J-Cre/FLOX+/- X (1409) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ (1516)J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1803)J-Cre/FLOX+/-p+/- (1816)J-Cre/FLOX-/-/p-/- X (1830)J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/+ (1517)J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1419)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- (1516) J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1419) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- (1516) J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1419) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/-	
FLOX+/- J+ p53+/+ 1825 1690 1818	3 mice FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE	(1516) J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1419) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- (1418) J-Cre/FLOX+/- X (1409) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ (1517)J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1419)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/-	8/7/2006 7/31/2006 7/26/2006
FLOX+/- NO J-CRE p53 wt 1873 1876	2 mice FEMALE FEMALE	(1244/1417) FLOX+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+ (1244/1417) FLOX+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+	9/27/2006 9/27/2006
FLOX+/+ NO J-CRE p53+/- 2058 2103	2 mice FEMALE FEMALE	(1656) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X (2033) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p-/- (1656) J-Cre/FLOX+/+ X(2066) J-Cre/FLOX+/+p+/-	4/28/2007 8/26/2007
CANCER MICE (FEMALES) TAG	8 mice GENDER	PARENTS	DOB
1860 1858=2053 1819 1861 1515 1853 1897 (Tumor Mouse)	FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE FEMALE	(1819)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+ (1819)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+ (1517)J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1419)J-Cre/FLOX+/+ (1819)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+ (1220) p+/- X (1406) F+/+,J+ (1819)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- X (1659) FLOX+/+ (1679) FLOX+/+ X (1804) J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/- (1517)J-Cre/FLOX+/-/p+/- X (1419)J-Cre/FLOX+/+/p+/-	9/27/2006 9/27/2006 7/26/2006 9/27/2006 4/7/2006 9/27/2006 10/25/2006 7/26/2006

The number of colonies derived from the primary mammary epithelium of these mice at the ages of 6 and 9 months was not significantly different. We did, however, observe that the diameter of the colonies was larger in the BRCA1 null PMECs. We are therefore currently examining these colonies with specialized image analysis software. We have, as originally planned, created a tissue bank with fixed paraffin-embedded tissues. At this point we decided to pursue the project in two different ways: Compare BRCA1-null PMECs with controls at the age of 15 months, and, introduce a second mutation that is often found early-on in BRCA1-related cancers, p53 heterozygozity.

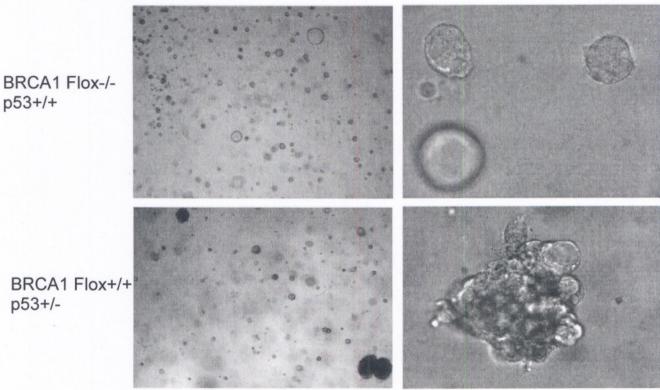
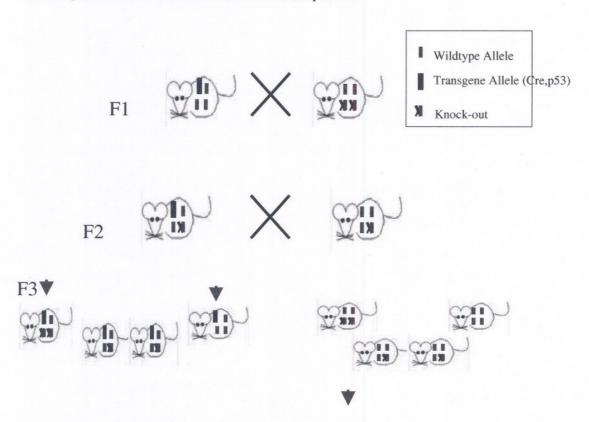


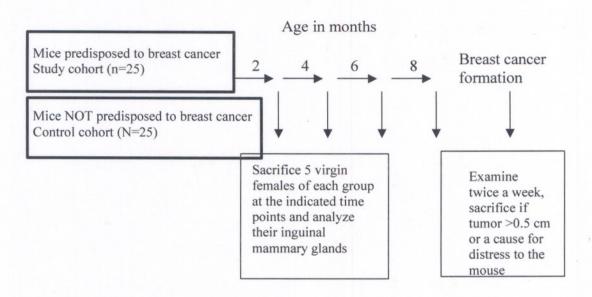
Fig. 1. Cancer-like colonies do not emerge in BRCA1-null PMECs (upper panel), but in BRCA1-null PMECs that are also p53 heterozygotes (lower panel). Left 4x, right 20x magnifications.

To indroduce p53 heterozygosity, founder animals were bought from Charles River, or obtained through the NCI repository. Members of the second generation (single transgene positive, and transgene negative) were used to breed a third generation in which 50% of the animals are transgene negative and 50% are transgene positive. This third generation, transgene positive study subjects, and transgene negative controls, are the study cohort. The transmission of the desired genotypes follows Mendelian genetics. Efficiency is 12.5 % or 1 in 8. For each mouse, genotyping will be performed at ages 2-6 weeks. The mice will be tagged with numbered eartags using . A less than 0.5 cm piece of the tail tip will be cut. Every effort will be made to have that tail tip be as short as possible to avoid pain and hemorrhage. These female virgin mice will be followed and sacrificed at the indicated time points or if they develop tumors (see flow chart). The mammary glands will be isolated, and the mammary epithelial cells analyzed as indicated above.

Breeding BRCA1 conditional knock-out with mutant p53 / cre



Flow Chart 1: Breeding schema, note that only 25 % of the bred female animals will be analyzed (red arrow)



Each experiment investigates 50 animals (25 study subjects, and 25 controls)

Flow Chart 2. Observation and disposition of the experimental cohorts

Research Accomplishments

- 1. Established colony of conditional BRCA1 mutant mice
- 2. Determined that cancer-like colonies can only be found if BRCA1-null primary mammary epithelial cells are also p53 heterozygote.
- 3. Established colony of conditional BRCA1 mutant mice with additional p53 heterozygosity
- 4. Developed ex vivo colony formation assay for these mice
- 5. Established a bank of fixed and frozen colonies that are available for tumor marker analyses.

Reportable Outcomes

The preparation of a publication of these data is in process.

Conclusions

Cancerization of PMECs is a complex process. In BRCA1 null mice, an additional genetic hit is required for PMECs to show features of cancerization in ex vivo cultures, i.e. heterozygosity for p53.

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U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Animal Use Report

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Principal Investigator:

Principal Investigator: Gerburg M Wulf MD PhD

(Typed/Printed Name)

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Contract Number:

Phone Number: 617 667 0843

Fax Number: 617 667 0610

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Dogs					
Cats					
Guinea Pigs					2
Hamsters					
Rabbits					
Non-human Primates					
Sheep					
Pigs					
Goats					
Horses					-
Mice	90	70	0	0	160
Rats					
Fish					
List Others:					

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Column D: Number of animals used that were given analgesics, anesthetics, or tranquilizers to relieve pain or distress.

Column E: Number of animals used in painful procedures in which pain relieving compounds were not administered.

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DD FORM 882, JAN 1999 (EG)

PREVIOUS EDITION MAY BE USED.

WHS/DIOR, Jan 99

DD FORM 882 INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL

This form is for use in submitting INTERIM and FINAL invention reports to the Contracting Officer and for use in reporting the award of subcontracts containing a "Patent Rights" clause. If the form does not afford sufficient space, multiple forms may be used or plain sheets of paper with proper identification of information by item number may be attached.

An INTERIM report is due at least every 12 months from the date of contract award and shall include (a) a listing of "Subject Inventions" during the reporting period, (b) a certification of compliance with required invention identification and disclosure procedures together with a certification of reporting of all "Subject Inventions," and (c) any required information not previously reported on subcontracts containing a "Patent Rights" clause.

A FINAL report is due within 6 months if contractor is a small business firm or domestic nonprofit organization and within 3 months for all others after completion of the contract work and shall include (a) a listing of all "Subject Inventions" required by the contract to be reported, and (b) any required information not previously reported on subcontracts awarded during the course of or under the contract and containing a "Patent Rights" clause.

While the form may be used for simultaneously reporting inventions and subcontracts, it may also be used for reporting, promptly after award, subcontracts containing a "Patent Rights" clause.

Dates shall be entered where indicated in certain items on this form and shall be entered in six or eight digit numbers in the order of year and month (YYYYMM) or year, month and day (YYYYMMDD). Example: April 1999 should be entered as 199904 and April 15, 1999 should be entered as 19990415.

- 1.a. Self-explanatory.
- 1.b. Self-explanatory.
- 1.c. If "same" as Item 2.c., so state.
- 1.d. Self-explanatory.
- 2.a. If "same" as Item 1.a., so state.
- 2.b. Self-explanatory.
- 2.c. Procurement Instrument Identification (PII) number of contract (DFARS 204.7003).
- 2.d. through 5.e. Self-explanatory.

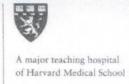
5.f. The name and address of the employer of each inventor not employed by the contractor or subcontractor is needed because the Government's rights in a reported invention may not be determined solely by the terms of the "Patent Rights" clause in the contract.

Example 1: If an invention is made by a Government employee assigned to work with a contractor, the Government rights in such an invention will be determined under Executive Order 10096.

Example 2: If an invention is made under a contract by joint inventors and one of the inventors is a Government employee, the Government's rights in such an inventor's interest in the invention will also be determined under Executive Order 10096, except where the contractor is a small businessor nonprofit organization, in which case the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 202(e) will apply.

- 5.g.(1) Self-explanatory.
- 5.g.(2) Self-explanatory with the exception that the contractor or subcontractor shall indicate, if known at the time of this report, whether applications will be filed under either the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) or the European Patent Convention (EPC). If such is known, the letters PCT or EPC shall be entered after each listed country.
- 6.a. Self-explanatory.
- 6.b. Self-explanatory.
- 6.c. Self-explanatory.
- 6.d. Patent Rights Clauses are located in FAR 52.227.
- 6.e. Self-explanatory.
- 6.f. Self-explanatory.
- 7. Certification not required by small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations.
- 7.a. through 7.d. Self-explanatory.





Gerburg M Wulf NRB1030C, BIDMC 330 Brookline Ave, Boston MA 02215

The Susan Komen Foundation

RE: Variance Statement for Financial Report BCTR061030, period 05/01/06-04/30/07

November 1, 2007

Dear Sir/Madam:

We were able to spend less money, specifically \$ 8424.02 on salaries, through a cost sharing agreement with a different grant. The \$ 8424.02 was instead spent on supplies that had gone up in price to an extent that was not foreseen at the time of the initial budget. There is no change in the goals, aims or scope of the work to be done.

Thank you for your attention to the matter,

Gerburg M. Wulf
Amending Physician

Assistant Professor - Harvard Medical School